

## Summary

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#### IN THIS ISSUE

*Inform NT* (cat. no 1308.7) is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Northern Territory (NT) Office of the ABS. It provides information about statistical developments, activities and products relating to the NT. *Inform NT* is designed to raise awareness of ABS products and services and to assist researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in the NT.

#### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

##### ISSUE (QUARTER)

March 2010

June 2010

September 2010

December 2010

##### Release Date

31 March 2010

23 June 2010

22 September 2010

21 December 2010

#### INQUIRIES

For further information about this publication and related statistics, contact the National

## Northern Territory Regional Director



### MESSAGE FROM NT ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR

#### NEW NT OFFICE OFFICIALLY OPENED

Welcome to the last issue of *Inform NT* for 2009.

The Australian Statistician, Brian Pink, officially opened the new ABS NT Office on Harry Chan Avenue on 2 October 2009. Mr Pink noted the important role that this Office plays in supporting the ABS in building a rich statistical picture of the Territory, through community and government collaboration. Thank you to all of you who came along to help us celebrate.

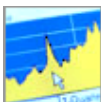
In late October I attended the 2011 Census Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy Working Group meeting in Brisbane. The Group comprises stakeholders from Australian, State/Territory and local governments with NT represented by NT Treasury, the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre and the Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation. At the meeting we finalised the terms of reference for the Working Group and discussed the draft 2011 Census Indigenous Enumeration Strategy and plans for the 2010 urban testing. Early in 2010 I am looking forward to meeting with the CEOs of our Local Government Councils and Shires to discuss the plans for the 2011 Census and the services that we might provide to them.

The NT Office hosted two Data Quality Assessment Workshops for Australian and NT Government agencies in November. These workshops demonstrated how the Data Quality Framework, which is being used by the COAG Reform Council to analyse and report on performance indicators for the COAG National Agreements, can be used to define the quality of a data item or collection of data items, assess data in the context of a data need, and areas for future improvement. I was pleased to see such a high level of interest with about 60 people participating in the workshops.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tom Joseph

## Latest Statistics



### LATEST STATISTICS

**NT Summary Statistics ~ New Look Regional Statistics NT Publication Released ~ Mapping the Gap: Results from the NATSISS Release ~ More Territorians Now Own Their Own Home Outright ~ Decline in Value of NT Imports and Exports ~ Births and Deaths ~ Construction Boom or Bust ~ Education News ~ Working Parents Pressed for Time ~ How Much Do You Earn Compared To The Average Joe?**

#### NT SUMMARY STATISTICS

Cat. no.	Selected data	Unit	NT	Aust.
<u>3101.0</u>	Estimated resident population (preliminary), 30 June 2009	'000	224 848	21 874 920
<u>6202.0</u>	Total persons employed (trend), October 2009	'000	118.3	10 807.9
<u>6202.0</u>	Total persons unemployed (trend), October 2009	'000	4.8	669.0
<u>6202.0</u>	Unemployment rate (trend), October 2009	%	3.9	5.8
<u>6202.0</u>	Unemployment rate (trend), September 2009	%	4.0	5.8
<u>6202.0</u>	Civilian population aged 15 years and over(a), October 2009	'000	167.7	17 627.2
<u>8731.0</u>	Total dwelling units approved, % change from previous month (trend), September 2009	%	-1.7	2.0
<u>8731.0</u>	Total dwelling units approved, % change from previous month (trend), August 2009	%	-1.4	2.4
<u>6401.0</u>	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % change September Qtr 2008 to September Qtr 2009	%	2.7(b)	1.3(c)
<u>6401.0</u>	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % change June Qtr 2009 to September Qtr 2009	%	1.9(b)	1.0(c)

(a) See *Labour Force, Australia, October 2009* (cat. no. 6202.0), Explanatory Notes para 10.

(b) Darwin.

(c) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

For further statistics about the NT see *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, Nov 2009* (cat. no. 1362.7).

## NEW LOOK REGIONAL STATISTICS NT PUBLICATION RELEASED

The first issue of the new look *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (cat. no. 1362.7) publication in e-magazine format was released on 17 November 2009. The statistics (and links to statistics) are presented by topic. This issue contains statistics on population and the environment, including a feature article, *Territorians buck the trend on green issues*, which looks at the environmental attitudes and behaviours of Territorians on issues such as climate change and energy use. New topics will be added in each of the next three issues (due for release in March, May and August 2010), and then each topic will be updated annually on a rolling basis. The March 2010 issue will add two topics: Employment, Education and Training, and Health and Safety.

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## MAPPING THE GAP: RESULTS FROM THE NATSISS RELEASE

In December 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a partnership between all levels of government to work with Indigenous communities to achieve the target of 'Closing the Gap' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The 'gap' refers to all levels of human interest such as education, life expectancy, health, and employment. The first results from the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008* (NATSISS) (cat. no. 4714.0) were released on 30 October 2009 and contain valuable data at the NT level for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing. The NATSISS was conducted throughout Australia in 2008, collecting information on family and culture, health, education, law and justice, labour force and housing. For the first time, the survey collected information on children and the first results contain data for children aged 0–3 and 4–14 years. There will be more NATSISS data released over the next few months and the Confidentiality Unit Record Files (CURFs) are due in early 2010. Requests for more detailed data or additional items can be made through the ABS consultancy service on 1300 135 070. More information about the [conduct of the survey, scope](#)

[and data outputs](#) is available on the ABS website.

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## MORE TERRITORIANS NOW OWN THEIR OWN HOME OUTRIGHT

Did you know that the proportion of households in the NT (excluding those in very remote areas) that owned their home without a mortgage almost doubled between 1997–98 and 2007–08 (up from 10% to 19%) but still fell well short of the national average of 33%? And that the proportion of households in the NT that were renting in 2007–08 remained the highest in the nation at 42%? This data, and other information about changes in housing occupancy and costs over time and between the states and territories, can be found in the publication *[Housing Occupancy and Costs, 2007-08](#)* (cat. no. 4130.0). The publication also reveals that in 2007–08 NT households incurred housing costs that were comparable with those incurred by their interstate counterparts when measured as a proportion of gross income, regardless of whether they owned their home outright or with a mortgage or rented from a public housing authority or private landlord.

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## DECLINE IN VALUE OF NT IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The value of NT's imports and exports of merchandise goods in September 2009 remained significantly lower than in September 2008, down 36% and 53% respectively. The value of exports continued to exceed the value of imports, and in September 2009 export value exceeded import value by \$47m.



For more information see *[International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia](#)* (cat. no. 5368.0).

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## BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The publication *[Births, Australia, 2008](#)* (cat. no. 3301.0) provides detailed statistics about live births and fertility in Australia. For example, in 2008 the NT continued to experience the highest teenage fertility rate of any state or territory, despite declining from 58.8 babies per 1,000 woman aged 15-19 years in 2007 to 52.2 in 2008. Despite an increase in the fertility rate for women aged 30-34 years in the NT (up from 98.5 babies per 1,000 women in 2007 to 105.4 babies in 2008), women aged 25–29 years continued to record the highest fertility rate of all age groups (111.1 babies per 1,000 women).

A standardised death rate for the NT of 9.2 persons per 1,000 population is reported in the recently released publication *[Deaths, Australia, 2008](#)* (cat. no. 3302.0). The NT had the highest standardised death rate of any state or territory. The median age at death for all persons in the NT was 61.5 years.

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## CONSTRUCTION BOOM OR BUST

According to the latest issue of *[Building Approvals, Australia, Sep 2009](#)* (cat. no. 8731.0), the

number of dwelling units approved in the NT declined from 98 in August 2009 to 96 in September 2009 (trend estimate). The NT was the only state or territory to record a decline in approvals for that month, and approvals have been declining in the NT since June 2009 when there were 102 approvals. In contrast, the latest issue of *Building Activity, Australia, Jun 2009* (cat. no. 8752.0) indicates the NT was the only state or territory to record an increase in the number of dwelling unit commencements during June Quarter 2009, up by four commencements to 302 (trend estimate) since March Quarter 2009.

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## EDUCATION NEWS

*Education News* (cat. no. 1330.0) is a newsletter that highlights the latest curriculum-related teaching resources, student activities and statistical tools that have been developed by ABS Educational Services and other resources that are useful for schools. The October 2009 issue provides, among other things, information about the new online registration form for *CensusAtSchool* to make it easier for teachers to get their students involved in next year's questionnaire, a classroom idea using CensusAtSchool data, and information about improvements to ABS' education webpages.

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## WORKING PARENTS PRESSED FOR TIME

Extra hours, multiple jobs and weekend work are all cutting into Australian family life, according to *Australian Social Trends, Sep 2009* (cat. no. 4102.0). This quarterly publication presents statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of current social issues. This issue includes articles on work and family balance, people with more than one job, children who are overweight or obese, and expanding links with China and India.

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## HOW MUCH DO YOU EARN COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE JOE?

Have you ever wondered how Territorians earnings compare to those in other states? What about the difference in earnings between males and females? The publication *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Aug 2009* (cat. no. 6302.0) contains estimates of average weekly ordinary time earnings and average weekly total earnings for all employees, classified by sector and state or territory, and by industry at the Australian level, for males, females and persons.

Trend series data for August 2009 shows that Territorians had the third highest total average weekly earnings (\$994.20) behind the Australian Capital Territory (\$1,108.30) and Western Australia (\$1,019.60). Total average weekly earnings for females in the NT were the second highest in the nation at \$864.50, less than females in the Australian Capital Territory who earned \$974.30 per week. Males in the NT ranked fifth at \$1,125.80.

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## 2011 Census



### 2011 CENSUS

## [Why Do We Have a Census? ~ Towards the 2011 Census ~ Census Nature and Content](#)

### WHY DO WE HAVE A CENSUS?

The Census of Population and Housing is the largest single statistical collection undertaken by the

ABS and one of the most important. It is conducted every five years. There are two broad objectives that underpin each census: to accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night and the dwellings in which they live; and to provide timely, high quality and relevant data for small geographic areas and small population groups.

The Census provides a reliable basis for estimating the population of Australia and its states/territories and local government areas which, among other things, enables governments to distribute funds on an informed basis. The Census also provides invaluable detailed information for informed decision-making by governments, businesses, organisations and individuals, and complements the rich but broad level data provided by other ABS surveys, such as labour force, education and health data.

For more information about the Census of Population and Housing see our [Census: what you need to know webpage](#).

## **TOWARDS THE 2011 CENSUS**

To help us count everyone in Australia during the 2011 Census, the ABS is seeking the advice and support of community-focused and government organisations. In each ABS Regional Office there is a Census Engagement Manager working with government, businesses, non-government organisations and the community to ensure every attempt is made to count everyone on Census night.

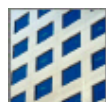
- During the last six months the NT Census Engagement Manager has met with about 25 non-government organisations, Indigenous organisations and Indigenous communities to discuss ways in which they might be able to assist the ABS in the lead up to the Census. The level of enthusiasm and willingness to assist has been encouraging.
- A proposal for a 2011 Census partnership between ABS, NT Treasury and the Department of Chief Minister is being discussed.
- The NT Census Engagement Manager delivered a presentation to the annual Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Forum in Alice Springs in November. Follow up meetings by the ABS NT Regional Director with those CEOs are planned for the first quarter of 2010.

Census engagement activities will continue throughout 2010 allowing organisations that are interested in the Census and making sure their community counts to be involved. For more information and to be part of the planning for the 2011 Census, please see the brochure [2011 Census of Population and Housing Local & Regional Engagement Strategy](#) (cat. no. 2911.0.55.001) or contact the NT Census Engagement Manager on (08) 8943 2188.

## **CENSUS NATURE AND CONTENT**

The publication [Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, 2011](#) (cat. no. 2008.0) was released in November. This publication outlines the content of the 2011 Census and the procedures to be followed in collecting, processing and releasing the data.

## **Developments in ABS Statistics**



### **DEVELOPMENTS IN ABS STATISTICS**

**NatStats 2010 Conference ~ Good Practice Guide for Data Sharing Released ~ New Look NSS Handbook Released ~ Labour Force Sample Reinstatement ~ Selected Publication Release Dates**



# NatStats 2010 Conference

15-17 September 2010 Darling Harbour Sydney

The ABS will be hosting another NatStats conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, on 15–17 September 2010.

NatStats 2010 will build on the enthusiasm and passion generated by delegates at NatStats08 and aims to build stronger links with key stakeholders, strengthen the understanding of statistical issues within and across governments, and consolidate support for current and emerging statistical initiatives.

An exciting program is being developed and will address a range of issues regarding national statistics. If you would like to hear more about the NatStats 2010 conference, or have any suggestions, please contact Annette Hants on (02) 6252 6936 or email [natstats@nss.gov.au](mailto:natstats@nss.gov.au).

## **GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR DATA SHARING RELEASED**

To support agencies wishing to share their data with others, the ABS has released [A Good Practice Guide for Sharing your Data with Others](#). The guide provides a basic framework for data sharing agreements, including key factors to consider when developing data sharing agreements and how these relate to the agency, staff and data. The Guide complements [DATAfitness: A guide to keeping your data in good shape](#), to ensure your data is healthy before you share it with others.

Data sharing exposes the availability of data and leads to informed policy and decision-making within government and community. An example of agencies managing and sharing their data is the [Victorian Children and Adolescent Monitoring System \(VCAMS\)](#), which brings together a comprehensive set of indicators from across Victorian Government departments. The VCAMS project aims to transform a manual process into an automated one that collates data and creates outputs almost immediately.

## **NEW LOOK NSS HANDBOOK RELEASED**

The new look [National Statistical Service \(NSS\) Handbook](#) has been released as a web-friendly interface providing a visual guide to the stages of the statistical cycle (the planning phase, collecting the information, processing the data, disseminating the information, etc). The Handbook is a non-technical reference guide for anyone involved in the business of statistics.

Feedback on the new look Handbook can be sent by clicking on 'Feedback' in each section of the Handbook or simply by emailing [inquiries@nss.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@nss.gov.au).



## LABOUR FORCE SAMPLE REINSTATEMENT

The reinstatement of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample, offsetting the July 2008 reduction, commenced in September 2009 and will be completed in December 2009. The December 2009 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), to be released on 15 January 2010, will be the first under the fully reinstated sample. Private dwellings in larger urban centres and less remote areas and Indigenous community dwellings represent 87% of the reinstated sample and have been progressively reinstated over the four months. The remaining 13%, comprising dwellings in the more remote, less populated areas and non-private dwellings, was fully reinstated in October 2009.

In the NT, the number of persons fully responding to the LFS is expected to increase from 1700 persons in August 2009 to approximately 2100 persons in December 2009. This reflects a change from sampling one in every 68 persons aged 15 years and over to sampling one in every 54 persons aged 15 years and over.

The full sample reinstatement will decrease the relative standard errors (RSEs) on LFS estimates for Australia, states, and territories by approximately 15%, evident from the December 2009 issue, with gradual improvement observed from September 2009. The RSEs for employment and unemployment for the NT are expected to return to 2.6% for employment and 13.4% for unemployment (compared to 3.0% and 15.1% respectively prior to the sample reinstatement).

Detailed information about the sample reinstatement is available in *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Third edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

## SELECTED PUBLICATION RELEASE DATES

Release date	Publication	Cat. no.
<b>Social</b>		
15 Jan	Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Northern Territory, Sep 2009	8635.7.55.001
29 Jan	Criminal Courts, Australia, 2008-09	4513.0
08 Feb	Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Dec 2009	3401.0
04 Mar	Local Government and ABS, Mar 2010	1376.0
12 Mar	Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, Mar 2010	1362.7
16 Mar	Guide to Migrant Statistical Sources, 2010	3414.0
<b>Demography</b>		
03 Mar	Demography News, Mar 2010	3106.0
17 Mar	Causes of Death, Australia, 2008	3303.0
25 Mar	Australian Demographic Statistics, Sep 2009	3101.0
26 Mar	Perinatal Deaths, Australia, 2008	3304.0
30 Mar	Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09	3218.0
<b>Education</b>		
28 Jan	Schools, Australia, Preliminary, 2009	4220.0
16 Mar	Schools, Australia, 2009	4221.0
<b>Economy</b>		
09 Feb	Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary, 2008-09	7501.0



15 Feb	Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types, Dec 2009	6463.0
23 Feb	Underemployed Workers, Australia, Sep 2009	6265.0
26 Feb	Mining Indicators, Australia, Sep 2009	8417.0
10 Mar	Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, Dec 2009	8412.0
26 Mar	Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2008-09	5368.0.55.006

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## Contacts



### CONTACTS

#### **Call for Contributions and Feedback ~ ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)**

##### **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

*Inform NT* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the ABS NT Office designed to promote statistical developments relevant to the NT. If there is something you would like to see included in future issues or if you know of something that would be of interest to *Inform NT* readers, please let us know.

Likewise, we would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Contributions and feedback can be directed to the Client and Statistical Services Branch of the ABS NT Office, phone 08 8943 2105 or email [nt.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:nt.statistics@abs.gov.au).

##### **ABS NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE (NIRS)**

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Email: [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

## About this Release

*Inform NT* is a newsletter produced by the Northern Territory office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.